Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1659 - May 29 2009

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank-you's to our generous listeners who support these weekly newscasts here's our Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

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In the Merry Month of May of last year we heard via PayPal from Michael Scheliga, Daryl Stout; Scott Currier- Haverville, MA; Rory Shaffer- Roebling, NJ; Thomas Home- Takoma Park, MD; Murray Hunt- Odenton, MD, David Carter- Washington, D.C.; Jesse Lindley- Greensboro, NC; Robert McClintock, N3RZI & KB3PHI in Franckville, PA; Robert Harlan- Mansfield, OH; Robert Mallory- KD8HXT, North Canton, OH; Paul Vinoski- Fisher, WV; Doug Papciak- Tucker, GA; James Drenthe in Galesburg, MI, who is a regular contributor; Wayne Strickland- W9BBB, Chicago.

Also from Illinois, John Leonard- W9JBL in De Kalb; Joseph Kratky- KA9KBU in Hickory Hills; James Langsted- Golden, CO; Lee Dusbabek- WR7NV, Las Vegas, NV; David Billeci- WA6UHA, San Francisco.

Also from California, Russell Williams- W6OHM in Latrobe; Matt Sturtz- Broomfield ; Roy Hepp- Carpinteria; Frank Brand- Tujunga.

And finally, and through the magic of PayPal, Mitchell Wolfson- DJ0QN, Unterschleissheim, Germany. That was fun! Got to exercise my schprechen ze Deutch!

That's quite a list, but you have to remember that most of those contributions were on the order of $10-$20, and this was right after a major capital campaign.

It costs almost $1000 a month to gather the news and put these newscasts on the air. And right now, things are pretty grim. Please do what you can to keep these newscasts on the air by logging onto our website and going to our PayPal secure contribution link, or contacting us at our Arcadia support fund address given at the end of this newscast.

For now, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and thank you.

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Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1659 with a release date of Friday, May 29th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. The FCC tells AB2PP that it will not invoke PRB-1 to save his tower, three new ham radio cubesats are on-orbit and FCC rules enforcer Laura Smith speaks out on malicious interference. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1659 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

** RADIO LAW: FCC AGAIN REFUSES TO INVOKE PRB-1 TO ASSIST YONKERS NY

HAM

There has been another setback for Thomas R. Morrison, AB2PP. This, in his fight with the city of Yonkers, New York, to keep his tower and antenna. A tower that the city wants torn down. Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, is here with the latest:

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This is the third time Thomas Morrison, AB2PP, has sought assistance from the FCC in this matter. In 2006, he filed a request with the Commission, asking for a declaratory ruling regarding the tower but the FCC denied his request in January 2007. At that time the agency told Morrison that it would not intervene. It noted that PRB-1 permits the local authority to determine what constitutes a reasonable accommodation to a radio amateur based on what the city sees as its legitimate purposes, policies and concerns.

Morrison appealed again ib December 2008. On March 27 of this year the FCC notified him that it was again denying his reconsideration request concerning his antenna support. In that petition, Morrison again requested the Commission rule that the City of Yonkers did not provide reasonable accommodation in its building permit requirements as defined in PRB-1. But the FCC simply did not agree.

So Morrison tried again. In an e-mail dated this past April 15th he asked the FCC for reconsideration of its letter dated March 27th letter which declined to act on his request. This time Morrison asked the FCC find that the building permit requirements of the City of Yonkers do not comply with the Commission's policy regarding local regulation of amateur radio facilities.

But the FCC says it will not do that. It stated that it has already once said that PRB 1 does not cover his situation. Also that the fact that Yonkers had subsequently denied Morrison's request for a special use is not an appropriate matter for Commission involvement.

In this appeal Morreison had also claimed that he agreed that he would not to use the antenna until the City Planning Board has approved the structure. This, in order to settle the criminal case against him without incarceration, But he also said that that local authorities overstepped their jurisdiction by demanding this stipulation. As such he claimed that the city encroached upon the sole authority of the FCC to act in matters regarding radio transmission. Morrison claimed that this development warranted Commission action.

But the FCC appears to want no part of this case. Its reply to Morrison is short and quite to the point. We quote:

"The stipulation recites that it was agreed to by the parties. You indicate in your petition for reconsideration that you did not agree to this condition. If in fact you did not agree to it, you should raise the matter with the criminal court."

The bottom line is that the FCC will not will not come to Morrison's assistance because the agency does not see its intervention as a

relevant issue in his particular case. This is because Yonkers is not depriving him of having an antenna and getting on the air, but just telling him that he cannot have the kind of tower and antenna system that he wants.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, in New Jersey.

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The FCC's unofficial advice to AB2PP appears to at least suggest that he either fully comply with the city of Yonkers demands or to settle it in court. The complete text of the FCC dismissal order on Morisson's request is on-line at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1123A1.txt (FCC)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: THREE NEW MICRO CUBSATS LAUNCHED

Three new ham radio microsats have been launched and are now on-orbit. The three tiny birds are identified as PHARMASAT-1, HAWKSAT-I and POLYSAT CP6. All three were launched on Tuesday, May 19th from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

PHARMASAT-1 is from Santa Clara University. Its transmitting on 437.465 MHz in AX.25 data protocol at 1200 bits per second. HAWKSAT-I was the work of the Hawk Institute for Space Sciences. Its on 437.345 MHz. Last but by no means least is POLYSAT CP6 sponsored by the California Polytechnic State University. Its on 437.365 MHz with 1200 bit per second data in AX.25.

Web reports indicate that good signals have been received from Pharmasat-1 and from Polysat CP6. (ANS)

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RESTRUCTURING: NEW RADO REGS FOR HAMS IN PORTUGAL

Portugal has some new rules that its ham radio community must follow. For example, while establishing a communication an amateur must identify both station's call signs at the beginning and at the end of any transmission and at the end of a SQO session.

But that's not all. If the station is a mobile or out in the field, the amateur in control must identify each transmission with the station's call sign, followed by the word "mobile" or "portable." He also must transmit the present geographic location of the station in each transmission.

Visiting hams also have new rules to follow. Anytime a foreign amateur establish communications within the Portuguese territory under a "CEPT" license, the original station's call sign must be preceded by the proper regional prefix.

Approval of the new rules by Portugal's telecommunications regulator ANACOM took place on March 2nd but only became effective on June 1st. (CT1ETL)

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RESTRUCTURING: SLOVAK STATIONS GAIN 4 METERS

Slovak stations have access to the pan-European or 70 MHz band. As of May first Slovak stations have privileges in the band segment from 70.250 to 70.350MHz with a maximum of 10 watts E-R-P. Only one caveat: Each Slovak station must apply for special permission to operate in the new 70 MHz. ham radio spectrum. (Southgate)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W9AA Repeater serving Evergreen Park, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

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ENFORCEMENT: SOCAL HAM WARNED TO STAY OFF SAN DIEGO REPEATER

A California ham has been ordered by the FCC to stay off of a San Diego area repeater or face some harsh penalties from the FCC. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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In her March 30th letter to Cory M. Herttua, N6HHT, of La Mesa, California, new FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith noted that the owner and trustee of the K6JSI system had requested, by letter dated February 25, 2009, that Herttua refrain from use of this repeater. Smith's letter claims that the written request was issued as a result of Herttua failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee and control operator of the repeater that he was obliged as a user to obey.

Smith's letter to N6HHT did not stipulate what licensee imposed rules Herttua was accused of violating. Only that that the Commission expects him to abide by the license holders request that he stay off of the K6JSI repeater. Also that he obey any similar demands to cease operations on any other repeaters by any other repeater licensees, control operators or trustees.

Herttua was also told that his use of K6JSI repeater after receipt of the FCC letter could subject him to some severe penalties. This could include a fine or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies upon which he may operate. It could even lead an outright revocation proceeding initiated against his amateur radio license.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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You might remember our report last week from the Dayton Hamvention where FCC rules man Bill Cross, W3TN, said that a repeater licensee has an absolute obligation to control his machine even if it means limiting the use to certain operators. As such banning unwanted users is an accepted practice for a licensee to use to meet the requirements for positive system control. The full text of the FCC letter to Herttua can be read at http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Hertt09_05_07_5109.html (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: LAURA SMITH ON MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE

Now that FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith has settled into her new job, a lot of hams are wondering how she views the problem of malicious interference and how it will be handled under her aegis. At the recent Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum, she tackled that question:

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Smith: "We get a lot of malicious interference complaints. In fact that' s the bulk of the complaints that I get.

"Unfortunately these are a little more difficult to handle because malicious interference is a gray area, meaning what is it? What does it mean? And its based on the facts of the case.

"What I have to do is to take the information from you and determine if those facts of those circumstances at that given time was malicious interference.

"If it was, we can do a phone call for a one-time deal. Or we can do e-mail or some kind of letter in each one of these.

"Remember, enforcement is all about facts and when you give me the facts, then I can go forward and work out what we are going to do about the problem."

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Smith believes that most malicious interference complaints can be resolved. For the more egregious ones there are far more severe penalties that she can and will invoke. (ARNewsline(tm))

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ENFORCEMENT: BRAZIL CRACKS DOWN ON SATELLITE PIRATES

Brazil, working with the U.S. intelligence has begun a crack down on pirate operators who have been using an abandoned United States military satellite system for their own personal use.

The FLTSATCOM which is an acronym for the Fleet Satellite Communications System was a constellation eight non-encrypted communications satellites launched between 1978 and 1989. These were replaced in the 1990's by a newer and more secure satellite system, but two of the old birds remain operational. This was discovered by pirate radio operators in Brazil about a half decade ago, but no action was taken until the U-S discovered the illegal operators and filed complaints to Brazil.

Now, Brazil has undertaken an enforcement campaign called "Operation Satellite" In it, Brazilian police use coordinates provided by the U.S. Department of Defense and confirmed by Brazil's telecommunications authority to raid locations of suspected satellite pirates.

Among those already caught and charged have been university professors, electricians, truckers and farmers. The suspects face up to four years and jail, but are more likely to be fined if convicted.

According to one article the abandoned birds were left operational in case they were needed in emergency situations. The growing amount of pirate activity from Brazil has made them unusable for that purpose. Its not known if the United States might simply de-orbit the remaining birds to put an end to the pirate operations. (Published reports)

** SAFETY: HAM KILLED IN TRAFFIC MISHAP A United Kingdom ham has been killed and another injured in a tragic road accident. On Sunday, May 24th, Ian Firby G7VCG and Peter Rushton G7PMZ, were involved in an collision that clamed Rushton's life and caused Firby to be rushed to a hospital by air ambulance. The accident took place on the M 61 motorway near the town of Bolton. A 28 year old man was arrested at the scene. He is currently in police custody on a charge of dangerous driving. Firby and Rushton are both members of the Oldham Amateur Radio Club. In a statement, club president Geoff Oliver, G0BJR, said that Rushton's death is a huge loss not only to the club but to him on a personal level as well. (Southgate) **

LISTENING NEWS: HISTORIC STATION LEAVES THE AIR

An AM-radio station synonymous with Northeastern Pennsylvania, is off the air and likely will not be back.

WARM spent the last 50 years broadcasting news, music and sports to the community most recently on 590 KHz. According to published reports. the station went dark in mid-April and has been silent ever since.

Sam Liguori who hosted a Saturday polka show. He said the station's transmitter had failed, describing it as a major technical problem that would cost a lot of money to repair. According to FCC rules, if the station fails to broadcast for 12 consecutive months, its license will be cancelled. (RW)

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D-STAR NEWS: NEW MONTHLY D-STAR NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

A new quarterly newsletter devoted to the digital voice mode D-STAR has been launched and can be downloaded free of charge. Called the D-STAR Info Newsletter it will feature news about the ode, related products and software, regional news on D-STAR systems and, hints and tips for users and much more.

The first issue now on-line includes these articles on the way that California Looks to 1.2 GHz for Frequencies, Grant Sources Can Fund New D-STAR Systems and much more. You can download the newsletter as a PDF file from www.dstarinfo.com/newsletter. (Southgate)

**

RADIO GEAR: NEW FIRMWARE FOR IV-7800 AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

IC-7800 owners, this one is for you. Revision 2.20 is a new firmware update for the IC-7800 on the English homepage of the Icom Inc. website. The firmware update will improved transmit function in sending transmit memory contents in operation in the RTTY and PSK mode when using an external keypad, an improvement in sending voice memory in SSB mode and CW memory keyer contents in the CW mode using external USB keyboard and programmable custom band-edge frequencies.

With the latter update installed, a user of the IC-7800 will hear a beep when tuning out of, or into the programmed Amateur Radio band. This is especially important to sight impaired or blind hams who will be able to be certain that they are transmitting inside on an appropriate frequency or band.

The firmware update is available to IC-7800 owners at www.icom.co.jp/world/support/download/firm/IC-7800/2_20/index.html (Icom, Southgate)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: NM7P RE-ELECTED UTAH SM

In the only contested ARRL Section Manager race this spring, Mel Parkes, NM7P, of Layton, was re-elected as the Utah Section Manager . Parkes garnered 480 votes while his opponent, Lauri "Mac" McCreary, KG7C, received only 147. Ballots in this election were counted on May 19th at ARRL Headquarters. (ARRL)

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HAM TECHNOLOGY: VK3RTV ATV REPEATER GOING DIGITAL

An ambitious project to convert the Australian VK3RTV amateur television repeater to all digital operation is underway down-under. This to bring one of the worlds longest running fast scan amateur television relay devices into the digital age.

The VK3RTV A-T-V analog system was established in 1977 to service Melbourne area. The new and improved digital VK3RTV will soon be on air using the DVB-T transmission standard. DVB-T is a terrestrial version of the digital broadcasting standard and can be received on commonly used household Set Top Boxes and digital television sets in many parts of the world.

The transition of VK3RTV from analog to digital is being primarily funded by Amateur Radio Victoria. It has spent $3,300 on the project so far. The Wireless Institute of Australia has now donated $1000 to aid in the conversion process. (WIA)

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RESTRUCTURING: UHF CB MAY EXPAND IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Communications and Media Authority is raising the possibility that the nations current 40 channel UHF Citizens Band may be increased accommodate up to 60 channels. An expansion would require a reduction in the simplex channel bandwidth from 25kHz to 12.5kHz and a lifting slightly of the band's upper frequency limit.

The proposals require new transceivers programmed to automatically switch between 12.5kHz and 25kHz as required. However some 25 kHz channels would be retained for the existing eight repeater pairs , emergency pair as well as the 22 and 23 telemetry and tele-command channels.

The Australian UHF Citizens Band band began in the late 1970s. Ast that time the government's plan that it would be the only CB band in Australia and everyone would switch from 27MHz AM and SSB to UHF FM. Because of the popularity of 27 MHz C[-B worldwide and the low cost of A-M transceivers that conversion did not happen. (WIA News)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW VENUE FOR AMSAT UK SPACE COLLOQUIUM

AMSAT-UK has announced a change of venue for the 2009 Colloquium. The annual gathering will now take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel at Guildford, which is close to the University of Surrey.

The Colloquium will take place July 25th and 26th. Planners say that there will be presentations on all the latest amateur satellite happenings and developments.

Also on site will be the RSGB's demonstration vehicle GB4FUN. It will also be there to show its satellite operations capability.

Full details of booking arrangements can be found on the AMSAT UK web site. That's in cyberspace at www.uk.amsat.org. (AMSAT-UK)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: INTERNATIONAL LIGHTSHIP AND LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

A total of 135 registrations have been received from 18 countries have already been received by the organizers of International Lightship & Lighthouse Weekend. Many more are expected before the event takes place on the weekend of August 15th and 16th.

Now in its 11th year this annual activation event run by the Ayr Radio Group of Scotland. It says that there was a record 406 registrations last year with the top countries being Australia and Germany.

For more information including guidelines, an online entry form and a list of entrants, visit the International Lightship & Lighthouse Weekend update website. Its on-line at www.illw.net. (VK3PC)

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WORLDBEAT: INDIA ISSUES ARDF COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Lion Ajoy, VU2JHM, tells Newsline that a new stamp honoring Amateur Radio Direction Finding has been released in India. According to VU2JHM the event was celebrated at the 10th A-R-D-F in Bangalore where a special cover and a special Postal Cancellation ceremony was held. With a bit of searching you can find a scan of the new stamp on line at the ham radio stamp collecting URL found at www.ea1ax.es/home2.htm (VU2JHM)

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WORLDBEAT: TAKING AMATEUR RADIO INTO SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS

The South African Radio League is working with the Sci Bono Science Discovery Centre and the Gauteng Provincial Department of Education to take amateur radio into high schools. This in association with the present Class B syllabus for the Grade 10 and 11 Electrical Technology curriculum.

The project will involve 82 schools and 88 teachers in the province. The plan is to train teachers to qualify as radio amateurs by the end of the year and to introduce the revised Electrical Curriculum to Grade 10 learners from 2010. (SARL)

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DX

F5MCC portable TH, and possibly TK5XN, will be on the air from Corsica until 11th June. They also plan to activate several lighthouses. QSL

for F5MCC go via his home call and TK5XN via F2YT either direct or through the bureau.

8N5I will be on the air from Shikoku Island until 15th June. QSL via JARL bureau.

N6IC is heading north to visit his family in Alaska and will be active portable KL7 from Douglas Island. Listen out for him only during the day. QSL via his home callsign.

DK9IP will be active as 5H2WK from Arusha, Tanzania through June 5th. Activity will be a holiday style, so his operations will be limited. QSL via DK9IP.

Lastly, members of the Algerian Radio Amateur Association and Djelfa Radio Club will activate the special event callsign 7X2DD from June 15th to the 21st. This, during the International Algerian Sahara HAM Meeting. Operations will be on all bands and modes. A special certificate will be issued instead of a QSL card.

(From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THANK YOU DARA

And finally this week, a very special thank you to those wonderful folks at the Dayton amateur Radio Association and the Dayton Hamvention for their ongoing support of these newscasts. And sometimes their support comes in a rather unexpected way. Our producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, was just about to begin last Saturday's Ham Radio Town Meeting when he received a big surprise from DARA President Steve Coy, K8UD and past-President, Jim Simpson, WB8QZZ. Here's Steve Coy:

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K8UD: "We want to recognize the fine work that Bill has been doing on Newsline. As President of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association it is my pleasure to offer you a $500 check to help keep Newsline going and continue on the excellent presentation that you have with that program.

"We try to give back to the ham radio community and we do appreciate your attendance today and we hope you will continue on for many many years in the future. And again, have a great Hamvention-"

WA6ITF: "Just let me say to DARA, to Steve and to Mr. Simpson over here -thank you and it will go to a worthy cause because this is what keeps the newscasts coming your way. Thank you very much. Thank you."

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Our thanks to DARA and the Dayton Amateur Radio Association for their ongoing and generous support of Amateur Radio Newsline. And our thanks to all of you who also support our all volunteer efforts to bring you the news of ham radio each week. It's because of you that we feel what we do as volunteers is worthwhile. (ARNewsline)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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